



# Naval Medical Research and Development

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[Home](#)[Leadership](#)[Laboratories](#)[Collaboration](#)[News & Media](#)[Resources](#)

## News Releases

### Peruvian Navy Surgeon General and Other Distinguished Guests Visit Naval Medical Research Center

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The Peruvian Navy Surgeon General, RADM Julio C. Cacho-Moran, and Peruvian Navy personnel from the "Direccion de Salud Naval," as well as Capt. Guillermo Pimentel, commanding officer, U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit No. 6 – Peru (NAMRU-6), visited the Naval Medical Research Center (NMRC) for a tour of research facilities and a meet-and-greet with Capt. Adam Armstrong, commanding officer, NMRC, June 16.

SILVER SPRING, Md. – The Peruvian Navy Surgeon General, RADM Julio C. Cacho-Moran, and Peruvian Navy personnel from the Direccion de Salud Naval, as well as Capt. Guillermo Pimentel, commanding officer, U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit No. 6 – Peru (NAMRU-6), visited the Naval Medical Research Center (NMRC) for a tour of research facilities and a meet-and-greet with Capt. Adam Armstrong, commanding officer, NMRC, June 16.

“For over 30 years the Peruvian Navy has hosted the NAMRU-6 laboratory in their "Centro Medico Naval Cirugano Mayor Santiago Tavera." Our collaboration has been instrumental in carrying out the mission of the NMRC R&D enterprise in South America,” said Pimentel.

The tour included an overview of the NMRC Biological Defense Research Directorate (BDRD) Mobile Labs, led by Lt. Robert Hontz and Petty Officer First Class Jayson Ravago. The first portable laboratory capable of conducting molecular detection was developed by the BDRD in 1991. This unique laboratory allows trained military personnel in the field to quickly conduct confirmatory assays to determine whether biological agents are present.

## News Releases

[Keeping Cool with Science](#)

[NAMRU-Dayton hosts Aerospace Medicine Research Alignment and Collaboration](#)

[Peruvian Navy Surgeon General and Other Distinguished Guests Visit Naval Medical Research Center](#)

[Military Sealift Deputy Commander Visits Navy Lab in Dayton](#)

[Two Naval Medical Research Center Corpsmen Selected for Medical Degree Preparatory Program](#)

[NMRC Summer Interns Arrive, All Ready to Research](#)

[NAMRU-SA Researchers Working on Laser Therapy Project to Improve Treatment of Multi-Drug Resistant Wound Infections](#)

[R&D Chronicles: Remembering NAMRU-5, the Navy's Medical Laboratory in Ethiopia, 1965-1977](#)

[Defense Health Agency to Assume Oversight of DoD HIV/AIDS Prevention Program](#)

[NAMRU-SA Research Dentist Competes for IRONMAN "All World Athlete" Status](#)

[Navy Core Values and Grit in Action – A Trek to Mt. Everest Base Camp](#)

[NMRC Participates in Second Biennial Department of Defense Lab Day](#)

[R&D Chronicles: Give Me \(Fallout\) Shelter: A Look Back at the Navy's Protective Shelter Study](#)

[Naval Medical Research Center Holds Retirement Ceremony for Executive Officer](#)

[NMRC Participation in the NATO COMEDS Visit to the National Capital Region](#)

[Osseointegration Offers Amputees a Revolutionary New Option in Prosthesis](#)

The tour also included an overview of the Infectious Diseases Directorate (IDD) and an insectary tour. IDD conducts research on infectious diseases considered to be significant threats to deployed Sailors, Marines, Soldiers, and Airmen. Significant threats are those with the potential to incapacitate a large number of deployed forces over a short time period, hindering the ability of warfighters to accomplish their mission. IDD primarily focuses on four infectious diseases: malaria, bacterial causes of traveler’s diarrhea, dengue fever, and scrub typhus.

“The U.S. Navy is at the forefront of research being conducted on infectious diseases and it’s really amazing to stand in a room full of researchers who may one day find a vaccine against malaria or other diseases,” RADM Cacho-Moran said.

The insectary is a shared Navy/Army asset that allows researchers to cultivate different types of mosquitos that are common vectors for a variety of infectious diseases. The mosquitos are used for various research efforts and are a key component to the work done at NMRC. The insectary tour included a talk from Capt. Judith Epstein, Clinical Director, Clinical Trials Center (CTC), NMRC. The NMRC CTC is responsible for conducting clinical trials on vaccine candidates, most notably, malaria.

- Navy Medicine West Visits NHRC to Discuss Readiness Through Research
- Chasing a Passion: Naval Medical Research Center Researcher Participates in Annual Boston Marathon
- Naval Medical R&D Enterprise Holds Commander’s Conference
- NAMRU-D Showcases Scientific Skill to Navy Medicine West Leadership

Enterprise About US	Laboratories	Collaboration	News	Resources
	NMRC NHRC NSMRL NAMRU-D NAMRU-SA NMRC-Asia NAMRU-3 NAMRU-6	Working With Us Partnerships Research Services Naval Research Business Contacts	News & Media News Releases Fact Sheets Newsletters Media Inquiries	BUMED Gorgas/WRAIR Library MED IG Hotline MHS NSC ONR USUHS WRNMMC USMC USN

